

Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, was aware of hostility to the goals of Zionism, but sought that Jews and Palestinians live in peaceful coexistence in his newly formed state. Unfortunately, radicalism and resistance for this peaceful goal only hardened. The many conflicts that ensued, from the Six Day War to the Second Intifada, has made life difficult for all Israelis.

Today, Israel is taking serious steps in hopes of reaching a peace agreement with the Palestinians. In the West Bank, Israel is removing roadblocks and evacuating outposts in order to strengthen Palestinian President Abbas so the Palestinian Authority is capable of implementing a treaty. Unfortunately, in Gaza the militant group Hamas is engaged in the broadest and most significant military buildup in its history with help from Syria and Iran. Hamas is restructuring more hierarchically and using more and more powerful weapons, such as longer-range rockets against Israel's southern communities.

The most serious threats that Israel faces are external. Two weeks ago, Iran announced that they had dramatically increased its capacity to enrich uranium with the installation of 6,000 new centrifuges. In doing so, Iran continued to defy not only the United States but the international community as well. The United States and Israel must continue to provide a united front against this regime, while still reaching out to its people, in order to protect the citizens of both countries and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

With the Arab population in Israel estimated to outnumber Jewish Israelis in the near future, building a lasting peace has never been more necessary to the continued existence of Israel. Fortunately, Israel's economy is strong and growing and the Israeli government is committed to a peaceful solution based upon political realities.

Our greatest hopes lay in the strength of the alliance between Israel and the United States and in the inherent rightness of the democratic values that both countries promote. That is why I am proud to stand in support of H. Con. Res. 322 and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of Israel, and I look forward to the continued role as an advocate for democracy in the Middle East.

GEORGE BAYLESS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize George Bayless, of St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Bayless was recently recognized by the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame, for his innovation in developing fishing products.

George developed ENVIO-WEIGHTS material for fishing tackle and other weights out of a desire to reduce lead in the environment. This innovative product earned Mr. Bayless the recognition from the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame. Mr. Bayless is involved in many other endeavors, including efforts to provide a fishing experience to disabled veterans.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing George Bayless, whose in-

novations in fishing equipment have been truly exceptional. It is truly an honor to serve Mr. Bayless in the United States Congress.

DAVID G. BURNET: FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, often referred to as the birthplace of Texas, the communities of Lynchburg and Highlands in east Harris County stand as a constant reminder of the rich history which has shaped the State. Initiatives such as "Project Star" now labor throughout the area to enlighten Texans of their past by highlighting historically significant locations. On March 15, 2008 the culmination of more than 175 years of progress, came to fruition with the opening of the David G. Burnet Park.

Serving as the first President of the Republic of Texas, David G. Burnet was selected to his position by the Revolutionary Convention of 1836. Before his presidency, he purchased 3.7 acres of land from the Lynch family just off of what is now called Burnet Bay, in south Harris County.

This area from 1830 became the first president's Texas homestead. Prior to Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia taking on the project to renovate the park, all that existed to mark David G. Burnet's homestead was a small stone Plaque. More than two million dollars were raised to develop David G. Burnet's homestead, including research for archeological authentication of the area.

Thanks to these much needed improvements, visitors to the historical park will find amongst the playground equipment and future ballpark, educational storyboards illustrating the locations past. These storyboards include information ranging from historical facts about Burnet to recounting life in the 1830's. In the near future "Project Star" and Commissioner Garcia plan to reconstruct, at the park, the first president of Texas' home.

Although David G. Burnet called his 3.7 acres almost 170 years ago home, Texans can still find a connection with him and others of his time from the park. The educational opportunities offered by a visit to David G. Burnet Park are invaluable to all and will serve as a reminder of the areas past for generations to come.

And that's just the way it is.

H. CON. RES. 328, SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE WITH RESPECT TO ANTI-LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER NAME-CALLING, BULLYING, AND HARASSMENT FACED BY INDIVIDUALS IN SCHOOLS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on April 25, 2008, the 12th annual National Day of Si-

lence will be observed. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 328, which supports the goals and ideals of the National Day of Silence.

Despite many misperceptions out there, the reason this day exists is to bring attention to the harassment, bullying, and outright abuse towards lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual (LGBT) students at schools and campuses across our country.

Four out of five LGBT students experience harassment at schools. Recent studies show that two of the top three reasons students are harassed in school are actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender expression.

The goal of the National Day of Silence is to make schools safer and supportive for every student, regardless of sexual orientation or gender expression. It's important to recognize that hundreds of thousands of students of all beliefs, backgrounds, and sexual orientations participate in this day.

Harassment and abuse affects all students, and hopefully through this inclusive, collective effort can this hatred be quieted, and eventually silenced.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize 100th anniversary of U.S. Army Reserve. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the United States Army Reserve, we are afforded the opportunity to recognize the honorable men and women who currently serve and those who have served our Nation in the past.

The origins of the Army Reserve began in 1908 when Congress established a group of 360 doctors, the Medical Reserve Corps, to provide our Nation with a band of trained medical officers during a time of war. From that moment forward, the Army Reserve has played a critical role in securing the safety of our troops and the advancement of our military's missions during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, the Iraq war, the global war on Jihadist terror, and other tumultuous times in our Nation's history.

More than 190,000 soldiers have been mobilized to support the war in Iraq and the war in Afghanistan. Currently, there are more than 26,000 soldiers serving on active duty in support of military operations.

Today, Army Reserve soldiers continue to answer their patriotic call of duty in a variety of ways these include defending our Nation against terrorist attacks, providing humanitarian support and relief operations during national disasters, providing combat service support to warfighting brigade combat teams, and offering unparalleled support to countries around the world as they strive to establish the freedom we often take for granted. The list goes on, and so does the Army Reserve's devotion to our Nation.

Army Reserve soldiers, or citizen soldiers, make up more than half the Army's combat support, and a quarter of its mobilization base expansion capability. The assistance they provide includes combat support, combat service